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PATENT

Applicant: **David L. Wellen Owen**
Serial No.: # 6 Pre-Amendment (A)
Filed: D. Townsend
Title: **SCREENS** 08/08/02
Examiner: Feed K
Group Art Unit:
Atty Docket No.: **20762-12**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 2327
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Sir:

Preliminary to examination, please amend the above-identified application as outlined below.

In The Claims

Please delete claims 1-29, without prejudice.

Please add new claims 30-40 as follows:

--30. (New) A fastening means for screening panels, which fastening means includes: fasteners, each fastener as a combination structure having a metal bolt as a tensile component and a polymeric holding component which has a ledge for holding down a panel; and a stringer for use as a joist in a screen frame, the stringer comprising a strip of cross section having a narrow width and depth sufficient to carry vertical reciprocating loads, presenting neither a top nor a bottom web, but a plurality of spaced apart platforms, each platform presenting a fastening formation which receives the tensile component, for securing a panel and a support area around or adjacent the fastening formation for supporting the panel, characterized in that there are a plurality of spaced apart separate fasteners and in that each platform is in the form of a disc having a hole in its center and the hole is immediately above the centroid of the stringer.